

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

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ILLUMINATIONS: THE ART OF LIGHT
September 22 - November 29, 1987

Light as the medium and the subject of art--not just the means of illumination--is the focus of *Illuminations: The Art of Light*, an exhibition of light sculptures, holograms, videotapes, films, and photographs at The Cleveland Museum of Art, on view from September 22 through November 29, 1987.

In celebration of the Michelson-Morley Centennial--the anniversary of the 1887 experiment that ultimately proved that the speed of light is unaffected by the motion of the earth--*Illuminations* presents objects of aesthetic as well as technological significance. Each conveys an idea or image with light and, taken as a group, they illustrate developments in light art from the early 20th century to the present.

Pioneering work in the medium includes Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's luminous-kinetic Light Space Modulator (Lichtrequisit) (1922-30), represented in this exhibition by a film and documentary photographs, and Thomas Wilfred's Clavilux Home Instrument (1930), a rare portable light display unit belonging to the Museum's Department of Education. Artists' interest in common industrial and commercial materials is evident in Untitled (to Charles Cowles) (1963), a work of fluorescent tubes by minimalist sculptor Dan Flavin. Otto Piene's sequenced neon and steel Electric Rosebush (1967) is presented with recent neon sculptures Double Poke in the Eye II (1985), a motorized work by Bruce Nauman, and Dyad II (1986) by Keith Sonnier.

2-illuminations: the art of light

Photograms from the 1920s through 1970s by Jaromir Funke, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, and György Kepes show how these artists have captured the subtlest nuances of light by placing translucent and opaque materials in the path of exposure in the darkroom. Holograms resulting from laser technology developed in the 1960s and 1970s include Harriet Casdin-Silver's early white light transmission hologram All Points Sphere (1974) and Jason Sapan's 120-degree stereogram Andy (1976), a moving portrait of Andy Warhol.

Lenders to *Illuminations* are the Milwaukee Museum of Art; the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College; the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio; the Akron Art Museum; the Leo Castelli Gallery, New York; Brent Sikkema, Vision Gallery, Boston; the Museum of Holography in New York; the Busch-Reisinger Museum, Harvard University; and the Dansmuseet, Stockholm.

The exhibition was organized by Ray Langenbach, assistant curator in the Museum's Education Department, who will present gallery talks on September 23 and 27 at 1:30 pm. Mr. Langenbach will offer two slide lectures tracing the use of actual and implied light in Western art from cave art through modern times, on Wednesdays at 2:15 pm: "Light: Revelation and Celebration" (November 4) and "Light in the Shadow of Science" (November 11). *Illuminations* is sponsored by the Columbiana Boiler Company of Cleveland. Admission is free.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.